

BOXELDER

Acer negundo L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Ash-leaved maple, Negundo maple, Three-leaved maple.

FORM: 50-70 feet high, with trunk 2-4 feet in diameter, usually divides near the ground into a number of wide-spreading and erect branches and slender pale green smooth branchlets.

BARK: 1/4-1/2 inch thick, pale gray or light brown, deeply divided into broad rounded ridges separating on the surface into short thick scales.

TWIGS: At first pale green and smooth or slightly hairy, in their first winter bright green and shiny or sometimes pale purple, and covered with smooth, fissured bark,

LEAVES: Compound, opposite, and consist of 3-5 leaflets that are ovate or oval, above the middle; their margins are coarsely toothed or serrate, and sometimes three-lobed, 2-4 inches long, and 2-3 inches broad, prominently veined, light bright green on the upper surface, and paler beneath.

FLOWERS: Appear with or before the leaves on the growth of the preceding season, yellowish-green, dioecious; staminate in fascicles with pendulous pedicels, 1-2 inches long; the pistillate in narrow, drooping racemes.

FRUIT: The winged seeds are attached to a central fruiting stalk and are borne in clusters that may be 6-8 inches in length; the seed are 1 1/2-2 inches long; the nutlets are narrowed at each end, bright red-brown and 1/2 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal sharp-pointed, 1/8 inch long and somewhat longer than the lateral buds, the scales with a dense covering of short soft hairs.

WOOD: Light, soft, creamy-yellow to yellow-gray, hard, and not durable.

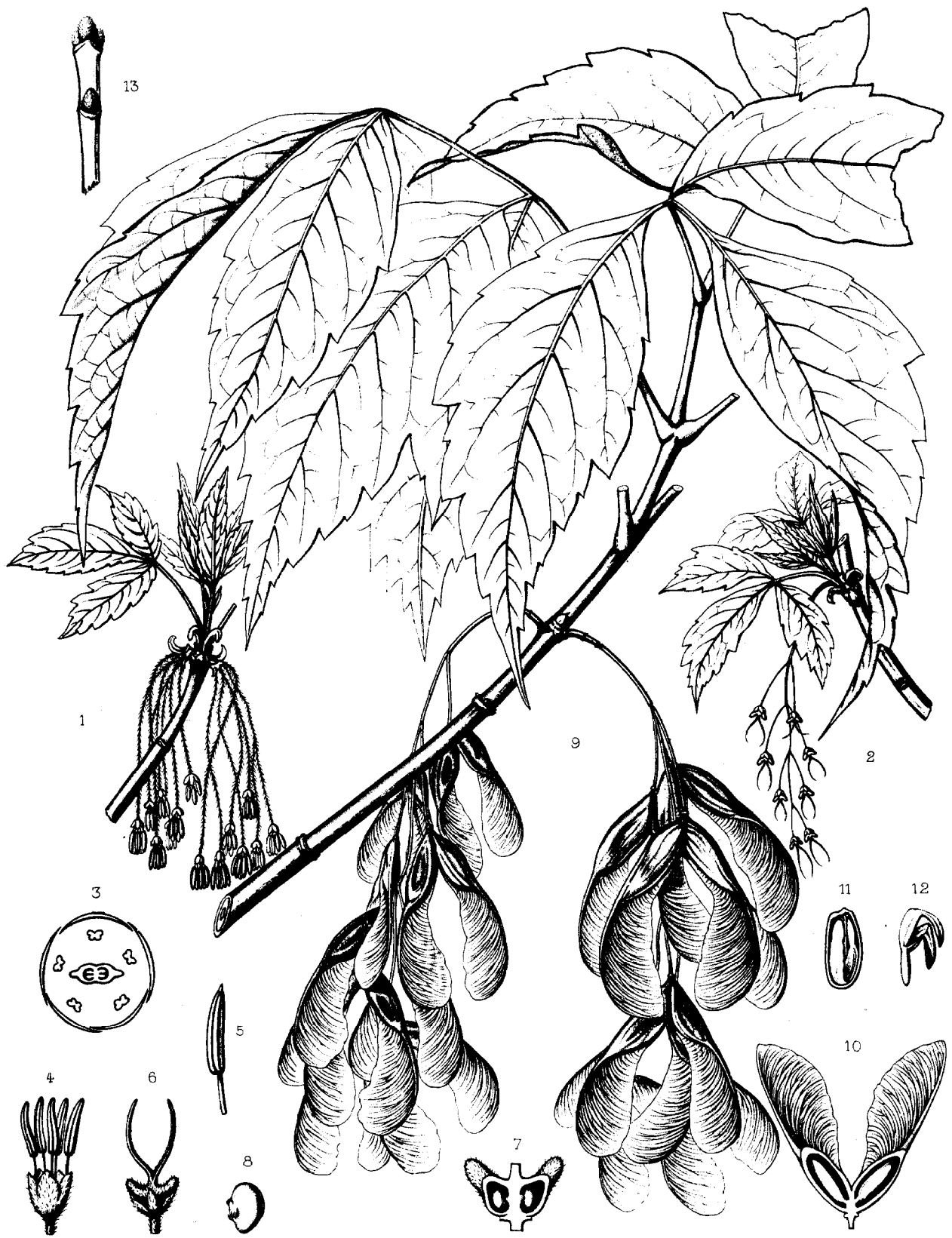
USES: Pulp. Historical uses: furniture, woodenware, barrel staves.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Bark light brown or pale gray, deeply divided into broad rounded ridges separating on the surface into thick scales; leaves compound composed of 3-5 leaflets; seed borne in clusters that may be 6-8 inches in length.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALBAMA: In rich woods, widely distributed.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch of the staminate tree | 7. Vertical section of an ovary |
| 2. A flowering branch of the pistillate tree | 8. An ovule |
| 3. Diagram of a flower | 9. A fruiting branch |
| 4. A staminate flower | 10. Vertical section of a fruit |
| 5. A stamen | 11. Vertical section of a seed |
| 6. A pistillate flower | 12. An embryo |
| | 13. A winter branchlet |



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